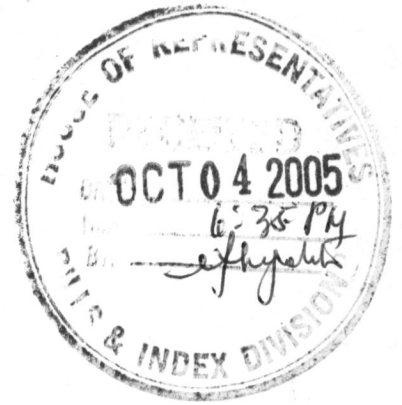




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4799

**Introduced by Honorable Rene DM. Velarde,
Honorable Leovigildo B. Banaag**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The ozone hole of the stratospheric layer, thirty kilometers above the earth, is now three (3) times the size of continental America and the layer is immensely depleting and thinning. The continuous emissions of ozone depleting substances (ODS) such as halons, chlorofluorocarbons and carbon dioxide are expected to widen the ozone hole and narrow the width of the layer resulting to its eventual inability to shield the earth from the harmful ultra violet rays from the sun. Hence, the gradual rise of temperatures towards a disastrous global warming. Besides raising ocean levels, global warming is expected to intensify storms, spread disease to new areas, and shift climate zones.

On account of the deterioration of the ozone layer, the quality of air that Filipinos breathe, especially in urban centers, may become a national ecological security nightmare if not addressed adequately at this stage. In this regard, there is an urgent need to regulate ozone-depleting substances such as halons.

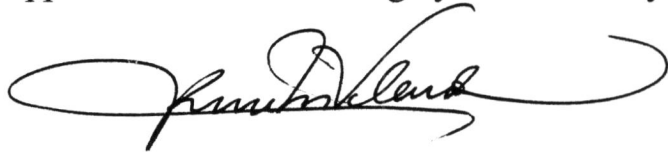
Halons are extremely damaging ozone-depleting substances. Usually, these are found in fixed fire protection systems, portable fire extinguishers, mobile fire extinguishers, and similar storage or containers.

A halon bank is the total quantity of halon existing at a given moment in a facility, organization, country, or region. On the other hand, halon bank management is a method of managing a supply of banked halon. It consists of keeping track of halon quantities at each stage: initial filling, installation, recycling, and storage. Halon banks are usually managed by a clearing-house, *i.e.* an office that facilitates contact between halon owners and halon buyers. It also provides full range of services such as halon recovery, reclamation, and recycling which includes decommissioning halon systems.

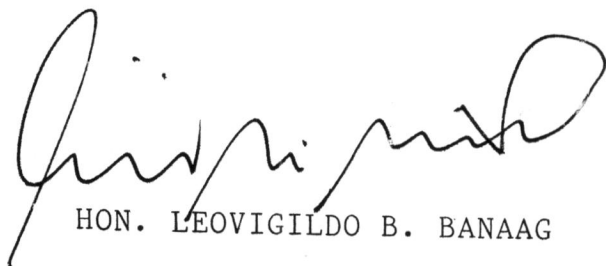
At present, the substitution and recovery of these hazardous substance are being undertaken principally by some accredited private companies at the instant of the Philippine Clean Air Foundation, inc., but this non-government organization is still short in funds and government support to effectively manage the disposal of this ozone-depleting substances and other hazardous chemicals that contribute to global warming and erratic change of climate in our modest.

This bill seeks to appropriate the amount of Twenty Million Pesos for the establishment of a halon bank facility in the Philippines which will serve as storage and disposal system of recovered halon and other ozone depleting substances.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly and earnestly recommended.



HON. RENE DM. VELARDE



HON. LEOVIGILDO B. BANAAG



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HOUSE BILL NO. 4799

Introduced by **Honorable Rene DM. Velarde,**
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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A HALON BANK FACILITY IN THE
PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF
TWENTY MILLION (P 20,000,000.00) PESOS FOR THE PURPOSE

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in this Congress assembled:

Section 1. Halon Bank Facility. – Within one year after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall cause the establishment of a halon bank facility.

The halon bank facility shall develop and implement comprehensive strategies to manage existing stocks of halon down to zero, advise on the

disposal of halons, and assist in locating halons in the country. It shall also act as a clearing agent for the sale of used halon, list companies that recycle used halons to a recognized specification, advise on the safe handling and disposal of halons, and act as a link between halon users and halon banks in other countries.

SEC. 2. ***Management.*** – After the completion of the halon bank facility, the DENR Secretary shall immediately deputize or appoint a non-government organization which has a track-record in the management of the said facility for non-profit operation.

SEC. 3. ***Loans, Donations and Other Contributions.*** – The DENR Secretary is hereby authorized to negotiate and secure loans from any financing institution using the allotted appropriation as collateral or security. He may also accept donations and other contributions for the halon bank facility.

SEC. 4. ***Appropriation.*** – The total amount of Twenty Million Pesos (P 20,000,000.00) charged to the appropriations of the DENR is hereby appropriated for the halon bank facility. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the repair and maintenance of the halon bank facility shall be included in the annual budget of the DENR.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,